



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,745	03/18/2004	Tuan Q. Tran	07860004US	5337

7590 11/30/2005
McGuire Woods LLP
Suite 1800
1750 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER

PATEL, NIHIR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3743

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

e

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/802,745		TRAN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Nihir Patel		3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on November 23rd, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 15-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 12 contains subject matter that was not described in the specification (i.e., “...the baffle is substantially stationary within the hollow body...”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

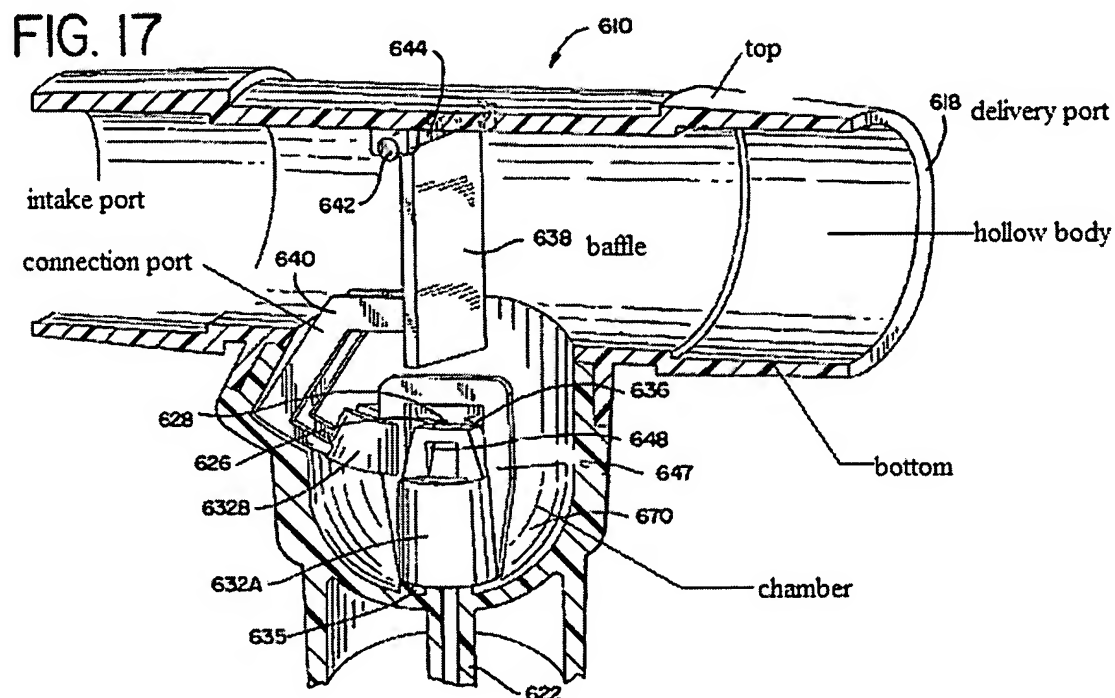
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 12 and 15 through 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blacker et al. (US 6,929,003). Referring to claim 12, Blacker discloses an apparatus that comprises a hollow body (see figure 17); with a top and a bottom; an intake port 616 and a delivery port 618 proximate the top of the hollow body; a reversibly attachable connection port 614 proximate the bottom of the hollow body; nebulizer inlet and a nebulizer outlet proximate

Art Unit: 3743

the bottom of the hollow body; and a baffle 646 (see figure 17) at least partially disposed within the hollow body, such that the baffle is substantially stationary within the hollow body and wherein the hollow body and the baffle defining an air flow path having portions parallel to one another through an interior of the hollow body.



Referring to claim 15, Blacker discloses an apparatus wherein the baffle comprises a substantially planar member disposed between the intake flow path and the delivery flow path (see figure 17 above).

Referring to claim 16, Blacker discloses an apparatus wherein the connection port is configured to reversibly attach to a chamber (see figure 17 above).

Referring to claim 17, Blacker discloses an apparatus wherein the baffle is configured to protrude into a chamber connected to the connection port (see figure 17 above).

Referring to claim 18, Blacker discloses an apparatus wherein the baffle is configured to direct the intake flow path out of the hollow body into a chamber connected to the connection port, and the baffle is configured to direct the delivery flow path from a chamber connected to the connection port into the hollow body (see figure 17 above).

Referring to claim 19, Blacker discloses an apparatus wherein the delivery port is disposed on a conduit attached proximate a top of the hollow body (see figure 17 above).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **20 through 22** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blacker et al. (US 6,929,003). **Referring to claims 20 through 22**, the applicant claims a conduit that comprises an exhaust outlet wherein the exhaust outlet is selectable sealable/one-way valve. Blacker discloses a different embodiment that comprises an exhaust outlet that is

Art Unit: 3743

selectable sealable/one-way valve (**see figure 21**). Therefore it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill of the art to provide an exhaust outlet wherein the exhaust outlet is selectable sealable/one-way valve as taught by the different embodiment of Blacker in order to provide an exit for expiration flow.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nihir Patel whose telephone number is (703)306-3463. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 4:30 every other fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 703-308-0101. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nihir Patel
November 23rd, 2005


Henry Bennett
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700